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Letter dated 29 April 2002 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I attach my assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of China in July 2001 (see annex). The present assessment has been prepared under my own responsibility following consultations with members of the Council, pursuant to the note by the President of the Security Council dated 12 June 1997 (S/1997/451) and should not be considered as representing the views of the Council.

I should be grateful if the present letter and the attached assessment could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Wang** Yingfan
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Annex to the letter dated 29 April 2002 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of China (July 2001)

Introduction

Under the presidency of Ambassador Wang Yingfan, Permanent Representative of China, the Security Council addressed a number of important issues in July, including Sierra Leone, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, Somalia, Guinea-Bissau, Afghanistan, East Timor, Georgia, Lebanon and Kosovo (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia). Thanks to the cooperation of members of the Council and the support of the Secretariat, the work of the Council in July was organized in a practical and orderly manner, with due priority given to some prominent issues without neglecting other questions on the Council's agenda.

During the month, the Council held eight public meetings and 12 consultations of the whole. Meetings with countries contributing troops to UNMOP, UNIFIL and UNOMIG were also held. The Council adopted six resolutions and two presidential statements. Upon request and with the concurrence of Council members, the President made nine statements to the press after informal consultations on various issues (see appendix). Immediately after informal consultations, the Presidency briefed Member States not members of the Council. Through its web site (www.china-un.org), the presidency published, on a regular basis and in a timely fashion, the provisional programme of work of the Council as well as activities carried out by the Council in July.

Africa

Burundi

On 17 July, members of the Council heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Kieran Prendergast. He updated them on the latest developments in Burundi, with a particular focus on the efforts made by the facilitator, Nelson Mandela, regional leaders and relevant Burundian parties with regard to the transitional government arrangements in Burundi within the framework of the Arusha Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation. Members of the Council expressed their appreciation of the efforts of the facilitator, and welcomed the proposed arrangements for the transitional government in Burundi. They strongly urged the armed groups in Burundi to cease hostilities and join the peace process. The President made a statement to the press after the consultations.

On 25 July, members of the Council heard another briefing by the Under-Secretary-General, who reported that the fifteenth regional summit, held in Arusha on 23 July, had endorsed the arrangements proposed by the facilitator for the transitional government in Burundi. Members of the Council welcomed the proposal and expressed their support for the facilitator and the regional leaders in carrying the peace process forward. Members of the Council called on all parties in Burundi to support the proposal and to set up the transitional government as scheduled. The President made a statement to the press after the consultations.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 18 July, members of the Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kamel Morjane. He expressed cautious optimism about the general situation in the country, indicating that the peace process was still fragile and the point of no return to war had not been reached. He informed the Council members that, in the eastern part of the country, hostile activities of armed groups still constituted a major threat to the peace process. He stressed the importance of early implementation of the process of disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration of the armed groups and complete withdrawal of all foreign forces from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He also informed the Council members that MONUC had been enjoying good cooperation from the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Council

members shared his assessment of the situation and stressed the need to follow the situation closely so as to further the peace process in areas such as disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration, cessation of assistance to the armed groups, withdrawal of foreign forces and the demilitarization of Kisangani.

On 24 July, the Council held a formal meeting on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, at which the Secretary-General and his Special Representative were present. The Secretary-General stressed that two major issues were of particular importance to the peace process and must be addressed in urgency, one being the progress to be made in the inter-Congolese dialogue, the other an early implementation of the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration process by all armed groups. He hoped that the Council would undertake more efforts towards realization of peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Special Representative underlined the importance of carrying forward the efforts in the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration process, the withdrawal of all foreign forces, and the complete demilitarization of Kisangani. He also stressed the need to support the efforts of the facilitator, Sir Ketumile Masire, in bringing about the inter-Congolese dialogue, and to help the country to achieve economic recovery and reconstruction. The Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2001/19), expressing satisfaction at the progress made so far in the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, calling upon all the parties to the conflict to fulfil their commitments and to implement fully the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement and all the relevant Security Council resolutions. The Council also commended the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for his outstanding work and invaluable contribution to the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Representatives of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Belgium (on behalf of the European Union) participated in the meeting and made statements.

Central African Republic

On 6 July, members of the Council were briefed by General Amadou Toumani Touré, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to the Central African Republic, and considered the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in that country (S/2001/660). Members of the Council condemned the attempted coup in May and the killing of the United Nations security coordinator in Bangui. They called for respect for human rights, national reconciliation and political dialogue, and urged the international community to increase assistance to the Central African Republic. The President made a statement to the press following the consultations.

On 17 July, the Security Council held a formal meeting and adopted a presidential statement on the Central African Republic (S/PRST/2001/18).

Guinea-Bissau

On 10 July, members of the Council were briefed by the Secretariat, and considered the report of the Secretary-General on the current situation in Guinea-Bissau and the activities of the United Nations Peace-Building Support Office in that country (S/2001/622 and Corr.1). Members of the Council reaffirmed their support for the efforts of the Government and people of Guinea-Bissau to promote national reconciliation, strengthen democratic institutions and improve relations with neighbouring countries. They also expressed their concern about the unstable political, economic and social situation in the country and tensions in its border areas with Senegal. They called upon the international community to provide generous contributions for promoting peace and stability in Guinea-Bissau. The President made a statement to the press after the consultations.

Sierra Leone

On 5 July, members of the Council held informal consultations to carry out the third review of measures imposed by resolution 1306 (2000). Members of the Council were also briefed by Ambassador Anwarul Karim Chowdhury of Bangladesh, Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone, on the implementation of those measures. Members of the Council welcomed the establishment of an export certificate scheme in Guinea and expressed support for the continuing efforts of ECOWAS and West African countries to develop a region-wide certification regime. They stressed that a successful strategy for managing the diamond fields would be critical for the sustainability of the peace process and future development in Sierra Leone. They reiterated their intention to continue to monitor closely

the implementation and effectiveness of the measures established under resolution 1306 (2000). The President made a statement to the press after the consultations.

Somalia

On 11 July, members of the Council were briefed by the Secretariat on the situation in Somalia and the continuing humanitarian plight of the Somali people caused by the conflict. Members of the Council called on all armed groups in Somalia to lay down their weapons and engage in peaceful dialogue with the Transitional National Government. They encouraged the Transitional National Government to exercise leadership, and urged the international community to mobilize support for the population in Somalia, including by making contributions to the United Nations consolidated appeal for Somalia for 2001. The President made a statement to the press following the consultations.

Asia

Afghanistan

On 19 July, members of the Council heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Kenzo Oshima. He introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the humanitarian implications of the measures imposed by resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1333 (2000) on Afghanistan (S/2001/695). The Council members noted the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report, including that the sanctions had a limited impact on the humanitarian situation, the persistent conflict being the main cause of its deterioration. They expressed their intention to review this matter regularly. The President made a statement to the press following the consultations.

On 30 July, the Security Council held a formal meeting and adopted unanimously resolution 1363 (2001), requesting the Secretary-General to establish, within 30 days, a monitoring mechanism to ensure the effective implementation of the measures imposed by resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1333 (2000).

East Timor

On 30 July, the Council held an open meeting to discuss the progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) (S/2001/719). The Secretary-General's Special Representative and Transitional Administrator for East Timor, Sergio Vieira de Mello, briefed the Council on the latest developments in East Timor and UNTAET efforts to ensure a smooth transition, including progress made in achieving "Timorization". José Ramos-Horta, member of the Transitional Cabinet of East Timor responsible for foreign affairs, also made a statement. Council members and representatives of other interested Member States spoke at the meeting. They welcomed the progress made by the East Timorese people and UNTAET towards independence and democracy for East Timor. Many Members emphasized the need for a substantial international presence and assistance in East Timor after independence.

Georgia

On 25 July, members of the Council held informal consultations to consider the report of the Secretary-General on Georgia (S/2001/713). In his briefing, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, observed that the situation in this area was generally calm, but that the security situation in the UNOMIG area of responsibility was not satisfactory owing to ongoing violence and increased activities by illegal armed groups in the Gali district; the Mission's continuing existence would be crucial in the stabilization of the conflict zone.

On 31 July, the Council held a formal meeting and adopted unanimously resolution 1364 (2001) by which the mandate of UNOMIG was renewed for another six months.

Middle East

Iraq

On 2 and 3 July, members of the Council held informal consultation to consider a draft resolution on the extension of the oil-for-food programme for Iraq. On 3 July, the Council held a formal meeting and adopted unanimously resolution 1360 (2001), by which

it renewed the programme for another phase, covering 150 days from 4 July 2001.

Lebanon

On 3 July, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations briefed the members of the Council on the recent crossfire incidents in southern Lebanon. Members of the Council expressed their concern at the violations of the Blue Line and called for the easing of tension and full respect of the Line. They hoped that the parties concerned would exercise restraint, so as to avoid further deterioration of the situation. The President made a statement to the press after the meeting.

On 12 July, members of the Council heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on developments concerning the videotape taken by soldiers of UNIFIL after the abduction of three Israeli soldiers by Hizbollah last October.

On 25 July, members of the Council held informal consultations to consider the report of the Secretary-General on UNIFIL (S/2001/714). The Under-Secretary-General updated the Council members on recent developments on the ground. Members of the Council expressed their deep concern about the continuing violation of the Blue Line. They also expressed support for the extension of the mandate of UNIFIL as suggested by the Secretary-General in his report.

On 31 July, the Council held a formal meeting and adopted unanimously resolution 1365 (2001), by which the mandate of UNIFIL was extended to 31 January 2002.

Europe

Croatia

On 10 July, members of the Council held informal consultations to consider the report of the Secretary-General on UNMOP (S/2001/661). They also heard a briefing from the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, who stated that the situation in the area of responsibility of UNMOP had remained stable and calm in general, and that Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia had resumed discussions on their dispute over Prevlaka. He also stressed the need to renew the mandate of UNMOP so as to help to ensure stability in the area. On 11 July, the Council held a formal meeting and adopted unanimously resolution 1362 (2001) by which the mandate of UNMOP was renewed for another six months.

Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

On 26 July, the Council held a public meeting on the situation in Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations briefed the Council on the latest developments related to the implementation of resolution 1244 (1999) and the activities of UNMIK. Members of the Council focused their discussion on preparations for the Kosovo-wide elections, the security situation and confidence-building measures, particularly in Mitrovica. They reiterated the importance of carrying forward effectively the findings of the Council's mission to Kosovo in June. They commended efforts made by UNMIK in the implementation of resolution 1244 (1999), and encouraged it to take further measures to stop the illegal flow of weapons across the border between Kosovo and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and to promote conditions for a safe return of all displaced persons, so as to guarantee the registration and participation of all ethnic groups in the elections. They also encouraged UNMIK to continue its cooperation with the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Statements were made by representatives of Belgium (on behalf of the European Union) and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Appendix

Statements to the press made by the President of the Security Council in July 2001

The situation in southern Lebanon (3 July)

Members of the Security Council expressed their concern at the recent events in southern Lebanon. They called for the easing of tension and for respecting the Blue Line, and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon. They hope the parties concerned will exercise restraint to avoid further deterioration of the situation. They expressed their support for the work of UNIFIL and the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Special Representative.

Sierra Leone (5 July)

The members of the Security Council held informal consultations on 5 July 2001, in accordance with paragraph 15 of section A of resolution 1306 (2000), under which the Council conducted its third review of the measures imposed by paragraph 1 of the resolution.

Council members received a briefing from the Chairman of the Sierra Leone sanctions Committee, Ambassador Chowdhury of Bangladesh, on the implementation of the measures. They welcomed the progress reported by the Chairman of the sanctions Committee.

Council members expressed the continued importance of resolution 1306 (2000) as a key tool in the Council's efforts to bring peace to Sierra Leone and the wider region. Council members underlined the importance of rigorous implementation of the measures contained in the resolution by all States, as the resolution requires.

Council members emphasized that the certification scheme in Sierra Leone is an essential step in curbing the flow of illicit diamonds out of Sierra Leone. They welcomed the fact that reports indicate the certification scheme is having a positive effect. This was clear from the fact that there has been an increase in the quantity of diamonds passing through the Government's hands. Council members welcomed the establishment of a certification scheme in Guinea and supported the continuing efforts of ECOWAS and West African countries to develop a region-wide certification regime. Council members stressed the responsibility of diamond-importing and exporting countries for fully implementing resolution 1306 (2000), and reiterated the importance of breaking the link between sales of conflict diamonds and the purchase of weapons.

Council members noted that the peace process in Sierra Leone was about to enter a crucial phase as UNAMSIL and the Government began to move into the diamond-producing areas. They looked forward to receiving further information from the Government of Sierra Leone, including plans for managing the diamond fields. Council members stressed that a successful strategy for managing the diamond fields would be critical for the sustainability of the peace process and Sierra Leone's future development.

Council members reiterated their intention to continue to monitor closely the implementation and effectiveness of the measures established under resolution 1306 (2000).

Central African Republic (6 July)

Members of the Security Council heard a briefing by General Touré, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to the Central African Republic, and considered the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Republic. Council members voiced their support for the efforts of General Touré and the Secretary-General as well as the work of BONUCA.

Council members emphasized the critical importance to peace and stability in the Central African Republic, and the region as a whole, of alleviating poverty and ending the violence.

Council members condemned the attempted coup in May and the killing of the United Nations security coordinator in Bangui, yesterday, and expressed condolences to the bereaved family.

Council members called for the respect of human rights, national reconciliation and political dialogue in the Central African Republic.

Council members called on the international community to increase assistance to the Central African Republic and stressed that international

assistance would be more effective if supplemented by appropriate structural reforms.

Council members expressed their readiness to conduct a further review of the situation in the Central African Republic, with a view to adopting a presidential statement as early as possible.

Democratic Republic of the Congo (6 July)

Members of the Security Council are concerned at recent information, according to which the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo still maintains positions beyond the disengagement line, FLC has not yet fulfilled its commitment to withdraw its forces to the agreed positions by 1 June 2001, and RCD-Goma has failed to disengage Kisangani and has obstructed the operations of MONUC.

Council members therefore called on all forces to withdraw to the agreed positions as a matter of urgency. Council members expressed the hope that this issue can be addressed through the institutions established by the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement, and that all the parties to the Lusaka Agreement will honour the commitments they have made to each other and the international community.

Council members expressed concern at the threat to the peace process posed by the activities of armed groups such as the ex-FAR/Interahamwe, FDD and FNL, and reminded all parties, including the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, that under Security Council resolution 1355 (2001) and other resolutions they should cease immediately all support to such groups.

Council members, in this respect, call on all parties to demonstrate full commitment to the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, disengagement and withdrawal processes by ending all forms of support to the armed groups, by providing full information to MONUC, and by resolving any discrepancies between actual positions and those set out in the agreed disengagement plans.

Guinea-Bissau (10 July)

Members of the Security Council received a briefing from the Director of the Africa II Division of the Department of Political Affairs on the situation in Guinea-Bissau. They took note of the report of the Secretary-General (S/2001/622 and Corr.1) on the current situation in the country and the activities of the United Nations Peace-Building Support Office in Guinea-Bissau.

Members of the Council reaffirmed their support for the efforts of the Government and the people of Guinea-Bissau to promote national reconciliation, strengthen democratic institutions to uphold the rule of law in the face of mounting challenges both inside and outside the country and to improve relations with neighbouring countries.

Members of the Council expressed concern over tensions in border areas with Senegal, the unstable political, economic and social situation and the inability of the Government, for lack of resources, to go forward with the restructuring of the armed forces and with the demobilization and reintegration programme.

Members of the Council also expressed their concern about the serious misappropriation of funds of the national treasury and welcomed efforts by President Yala and the National Assembly to shed light on those practices.

Members of the Council reiterated their call on the international community to continue to assist Guinea-Bissau in its economic rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, including the provision of urgent assistance to enable the Government to meet the most basic social needs of the population. They encouraged the Bretton Woods institutions to pursue their constructive policy towards Guinea-Bissau. They called upon the international community to provide generous contributions for promoting peace and stability in Guinea-Bissau.

Members of the Council commended the role played by UNOGBIS in facilitating peace-building initiatives in Guinea-Bissau aimed at strengthening democratic institutions, promoting the rule of law and the protection of human rights. They reiterated their support to the Representative of the Secretary-General, Samuel C. Nana-Sinkam.

Somalia (11 July)

The members of the Security Council heard a briefing by the Secretariat and noted with concern the situation in Somalia and the continuing humanitarian plight of the Somali people caused by the conflict.

Council members supported the OAU position on Somalia and reaffirmed that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Somalia should be fully respected.

Council members continued to call on all armed groups in Somalia to put down their weapons and engage in peaceful dialogue with the Transitional National Government.

Council members encouraged the Transitional National Government to exercise leadership, in particular by intensifying the efforts to facilitate — in a flexible and pragmatic manner — constructive dialogue with groups that remain outside the Arta peace process.

Council members strongly urged the Intergovernmental Authority on Development countries, neighbouring countries of Somalia in particular, and other interested countries to coordinate their efforts in supporting the peace process.

Council members reiterated their call on neighbouring States to refrain from any action detrimental to the peace process, including political dialogue and national reconciliation. They underlined the importance of full implementation of the arms embargo on Somalia imposed by resolution 733 (1992).

Council members urged the international community to mobilize support for the vulnerable population in Somalia, including by making contributions to the United Nations consolidated appeal for Somalia for 2001.

Burundi (17 July)

Members of the Security Council were briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Kieran Prendergast.

Members of the Council warmly welcomed the proposal by the facilitator, Nelson Mandela, regarding the transitional period under the Arusha Agreement.

Members of the Council called on all parties to reach agreement on, and all States in the region to support, the proposal which represents a crucial step forward in the peace process; they urged the signatories of the Arusha Agreement and the Implementation Monitoring Committee to contribute positively to the functioning of the transitional institutions.

Members of the Council again strongly urged the armed groups to suspend hostilities. They also called on all States in the region to cease any military support to the armed groups and to use their influence on them according to the provisions of Security Council resolution 1355 (2001), paragraph 11.

Members of the Council stressed the need for economic and humanitarian assistance from the international community once the transitional government is formed, bearing in mind the security situation throughout the country.

Afghanistan (19 July)

The Council members heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Kenzo Oshima, who introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the humanitarian implications of the measures imposed by Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1333 (2000).

The Council members considered the report. They noted the conclusions and the recommendations therein, including that the sanctions have a limited impact on the humanitarian situation, and that the persistent conflict is the main cause of the deterioration of the humanitarian situation.

The Council members noted that the humanitarian exemption mechanism of the sanctions regime operated smoothly in general. They appreciated further efforts by the sanctions Committee to make the mechanism more effective.

The Council members expressed concern about the deterioration of the humanitarian situation, appealed to the international community to continue to make generous contributions, and emphasized the need to ensure the security and safety of the humanitarian personnel and the smooth operation of the humanitarian activities.

The Council members expressed their intention to review this matter regularly. Further work will be done within the Council and the Secretariat on a comprehensive strategy.

Burundi (25 July)

Members of the Security Council were briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs.

Members of the Council welcomed the announcement of the agreement on the transitional

leadership in Burundi and supported the efforts by the facilitator, Nelson Mandela, and the leaders of the Great Lakes region.

Members of the Council hoped that all parties in Burundi would support this agreement and set up the transitional government as scheduled.

Members of the Council again strongly urged the armed groups to cease hostilities immediately and join the peace process already under way.

Members of the Council requested the international community to continue to provide assistance to the transitional government once set up.